

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1, 4-6, and 12-20 are now pending in this application. In the April 15, 2009 Office Action, claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Boss, *et al.* U.S. Patent No. 6,157,618 (hereinafter "*Boss*"). Claims 13 and 14 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this amendment, claim 12 has been canceled and claim 13 has been amended. Following entry of this amendment, claims 1, 4-6, and 13-20 will be pending in the present application. For the reasons set forth below, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and immediate allowance of this application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 4-6, and 15-20 were allowed. Claims 13-14 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In this regard, the Applicant has canceled claim 12. Claim 13 has been rewritten in independent form including the recitations of claim 12, from which it previously depended. Claim 14 correctly depends from independent claim 13. Accordingly, in view of the previous indication of allowability and the foregoing amendment, the Applicant submits that claims 1, 4-6, and 13-20 are in condition for immediate allowance.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

In the April 15, 2009 Office Action, claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Boss*. In an effort to advance prosecution of this application, and without conceding to the merits of the stated rejections, the Applicant has canceled claim 12. Accordingly, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) are rendered moot and the Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are now in condition for immediate allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims in the present application are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application and allowance of the claims at an early date is solicited. If the Examiner has any questions or comments concerning this matter, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned attorney at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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